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# FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FLM 6-57

JUN 18 1957

May 8, 1957

## WORLD CATTLE NUMBERS IN 1956 AND ESTIMATES FOR 1957

World cattle numbers continued increasing during 1956 to set a new record according to estimates at the beginning of 1957. The total is put at 937 million head, which is about 1 percent above 1956, 20 percent above the 1946-50 average, and 24 percent above prewar 1936-40.

CATTLE: Estimated world total, by continent or area, averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1956 and 1957

| Continent<br>or area | Average  |          | 1956 1/  | 1957 1/  | Increase (+) or<br>decrease (-) |         |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------------------------|---------|
|                      | 1936-40  | 1946-50  |          |          | 1957                            | 1957    |
|                      |          |          |          |          | 1936-40                         | 1956    |
|                      | Thousand | Thousand | Thousand | Thousand | Percent                         | Percent |
| North America        | 96,700   | 112,700  | 134,700  | 134,100  | +39                             | -1      |
| Europe .....         | 102,500  | 95,900   | 107,100  | 108,200  | + 6                             | +1      |
| U.S.S.R. ....        | 59,800   | 50,800   | 67,000   | 70,400   | +18                             | +5      |
| Asia .....           | 308,200  | 294,800  | 347,600  | 350,300  | +14                             | +1      |
| South America        | 105,500  | 123,800  | 148,800  | 149,400  | +11                             | --      |
| Africa .....         | 64,600   | 86,800   | 100,300  | 102,000  | +58                             | +1      |
| Oceania .....        | 18,100   | 19,100   | 22,500   | 22,900   | +27                             | +1      |
| Total .....          | 755,400  | 783,900  | 928,000  | 937,300  | +24                             | +1      |

1/ Preliminary.

Cattle numbers rose through 1956 in all major areas of the world except North America, where numbers in the United States declined about 2 percent from the previous year. However, compared with prewar averages, numbers were still particularly high in North America as well as in South America, Africa, and Oceania. (Water buffalo are included with cattle in countries where they are important.)

Conditions in recent years have been favorable for cattle production throughout large areas of the world. In addition, economic recovery and increased demand in the important importing areas of Western Europe have strengthened the market for red meat. West Germany and the United Kingdom are important market outlets for meat produced in the major livestock-producing countries.



Cattle production has increased in many tropical and semi-tropical countries whose governments have taken action to encourage livestock enterprises, and, through the consequent increase of protein foods and monetary income, raise the physical and economic well being of their people.

Domestic demand for meat and meat products has also grown in some underdeveloped countries where economic development programs have given new purchasing power to those long without an adequate supply of protein. The improvement in many of these areas is even greater than indicated by mere figures showing the increase in cattle numbers. Better management and the introduction of new breeds and types have not only increased productivity but have often resulted in considerably higher yields of meat and milk per head. Much work has been done to improve pastures, and increase production of other feed, so that the livestock industry can continue to expand. Considerable progress has also been made in recent years in controlling insects and diseases. Many governments have encouraged cattle production by diversifying farming operations.

Cattle production in North America, which had been rising steadily and substantially for a decade, dropped during 1956. A serious drought in the important Mid-western cattle area of the United States resulted in considerable reduction of herds. It is expected that numbers will continue to decline for a few years, but that the decrease will be slower than in past cattle cycles. Since 1890, the general trend in numbers has been upward, but as a result of temporary overproduction this trend has been interrupted by 5 periods of decline ranging from 4 to 10 years. The "numbers cycle" has been given wide attention in the United States and Canada, but not in other countries.

Cattle numbers in Canada continued to rise in 1956, reaching 9.8 million head in December. This total, however, was still below the record high of 10.3 reached in December 1944. Due to the high level of economic activity, demand for red meat is strong in Canada and is expected to continue through 1957. Present indications are for a rise in cattle numbers through 1957.

Mexican cattle, which suffered considerably during the foot-and-mouth disease epidemic in that country during 1946, have been increasing in numbers because of increased domestic demand for beef and feeder cattle. Numbers in Cuba continue to rise. A drop in numbers in Panama has caused considerable concern in that country, and the government has taken action to increase production.

Cattle numbers in Honduras have not changed much since the 1952 census. An estimated 1,121,000 were on farms in 1956 compared with 1,147,000 in the census of 1952. Relatively large numbers of cattle are exported to El Salvador and Guatemala each year.

Numbers in Europe increased moderately during 1956. Further cattle expansion in the area is likely to be small, as numerous other agricultural enterprises compete for the land. Cattle numbers in the largest producing

countries, France, West Germany, and the United Kingdom rose moderately during 1956. In all of these countries, government policy is to encourage and protect the livestock producer in an effort to save foreign exchange and build up soil fertility. In spite of government help, domestic producers have not been able to supply the domestic market, and imports have been necessary. Even France, long an exporter of cattle and beef, has become a net importer.

The two major livestock and beef exporting countries of Western Europe, Ireland and Denmark increased their cattle numbers during 1956, although the terms of trade have worsened due to competition from Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand and to the self-sufficiency policies of many European importing countries. Numbers also increased in Belgium, but declined in Austria and Yugoslavia.

In East Germany the government recently took action to increase cattle production -- on the decline as a result of competition from hog and crop production. Cattle numbers throughout Eastern Europe have remained steady, and little change is expected in the near future. Recent events in Hungary brought about a drop in production in that area.

Cattle numbers have increased substantially in the U.S.S.R. during the past few years, according to Communist sources. Latest official estimates of numbers are for October. This accounts for the impressive rise in numbers over those of prewar, when the estimation was made for January. The actual increase is probably nearer to 9 percent than to the 18 percent shown in the accompanying tables. During recent years the U.S.S.R. has placed emphasis on livestock enterprises of all kinds.

In Asia, cattle numbers have increased along with farm productivity and population. Throughout this area, cattle are used for work stock and milk supply. Meat is of secondary importance. High population pressure has tended to cut sharply into feed grain and fodder which might otherwise be available for animal production. Although meat is recognized as a dietary requirement, the demand for energy-giving food is so intense throughout much of Asia that neither grain nor pasture can be sacrificed for the specific production of meat.

Cattle numbers in Pakistan and India, however, continue to increase at a relatively steady rate. India has the largest number of cattle in the world, but it produces and consumes very little meat. To most Indians, cattle are sacred and not to be eaten. Cattle are kept for their milk or for work purposes, or they are maintained in idleness. The incidence of disease among cattle is high.

In recent years, cattle numbers in Red China have risen, according to Communist sources. Japan has made a considerable effort to increase its cattle numbers, and has achieved an increase of 94 percent over prewar. Cattle numbers in Korea have been rising since the end of hostilities there. A ban on the slaughter of work stock in the Philippine Republic has aided that country's program for increasing cattle and buffalo.



CATTLE: Number in Specified Countries, Averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, Annual 1952-57

| Continent and Country | Month of Estimate | Average    |         | 1952    | 1953    | 1954    | 1955    | 1956    | 1957    |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                       |                   | 1936-40    | 1946-50 |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| NORTH AMERICA         |                   |            |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Canada                | Dec. 1            | 8,246      | 8,883   | 7,936   | 8,906   | 9,371   | 9,473   | 9,660   | 9,843   |
| Costa Rica            | July              | 366        | 556     | -       | -       | 696     | 5/      | 844     | 873     |
| El Salvador           | July              | 680        | -       | -       | -827    | -       | -       | 934     | -       |
| Guatemala             | July              | 520        | 900     | 1,194   | 1,270   | 1,218   | -       | -       | -       |
| Honduras              | July              | 524        | 1,000   | 1,140   | 1,175   | -       | -       | -       | -       |
| Mexico                | Dec. 31           | 3/7/11,716 | 13,530  | 15,000  | 15,000  | 15,000  | 15,000  | 16,000  | 16,700  |
| Nicaragua             | Dec. 31           | 800        | 1,235   | 1,182   | 1,250   | 1,182   | 992     | 1,019   | 1,044   |
| Panama                | July              | 434        | 567     | 600     | 568     | 579     | 578     | 578     | 565     |
| United States         | Jan. 1            | 66,706     | 78,951  | 88,072  | 94,241  | 95,679  | 96,592  | 96,804  | 95,166  |
| Cuba                  | Dec. 31           | 5,024      | 4,500   | 4,440   | 4,000   | 4,400   | 4,447   | 4,500   | 4,550   |
| Dominican Republic    | July              | 885        | 887     | 860     | 860     | -933    | -       | -       | -       |
| Estimated Total       |                   | 96,700     | 112,700 | 122,800 | 129,700 | 132,100 | 133,100 | 134,700 | 134,100 |
| EUROPE                |                   |            |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Austria               | Dec. 31           | 2,600      | 2,173   | 2,400   | 2,347   | 2,300   | 2,304   | 2,346   | 2,323   |
| Belgium               | Jan. 1            | 1,724      | 1,674   | 2,127   | 2,151   | 2,213   | 2,252   | 2,242   | 2,298   |
| Denmark               | Dec. 31           | 3,108      | 2,881   | 2,932   | 2,953   | 2,999   | 3,089   | 3,082   | 3,113   |
| Finland               | June 15           | 1,850      | 1,598   | 1,851   | 1,809   | 1,885   | 1,902   | 1,827   | -       |
| France                | Oct. 1            | 15,500     | 15,073  | 16,235  | 16,281  | 16,889  | 17,322  | 17,572  | 17,792  |
| Germany, Western      | Dec. 1            | 12,114     | 10,631  | 11,375  | 11,641  | 11,521  | 11,553  | 11,815  | 11,815  |
| Greece                | Dec. 31           | 1,278      | 742     | 915     | 944     | 976     | 990     | 1,033   | 1,056   |
| Ireland               | Dec. 31           | 4,021      | 4,093   | 4,309   | 4,397   | 4,504   | 4,483   | 4,534   | -       |
| Italy                 | Jan. 1            | 8,550      | 7,838   | 8,381   | 8,694   | 9,033   | 9,033   | 9,300   | -       |
| Luxembourg            | Dec. 1            | 108        | 114     | 124     | -       | 127     | -       | -       | -       |
| Netherlands           | May               | 2,693      | 2,471   | 2,858   | 2,934   | 3,026   | 2,995   | 2,948   | -       |
| Norway                | June 20           | 1,390      | 1,226   | 1,152   | 1,150   | 1,181   | 1,171   | 1,112   | -       |
| Portugal              | Dec. 31           | 832        | 975     | -       | -       | 930     | -       | -       | -       |
| Spain                 | April 1           | -          | 3,206   | 3,150   | 3,128   | 3,184   | -       | -       | -       |
| Sweden                | Summer            | 2,959      | 2,705   | 2,532   | 2,554   | 2,586   | 2,575   | 2,434   | -       |
| Switzerland           | April             | 1,663      | 1,471   | 1,682   | 1,635   | 1,593   | 1,583   | 1,645   | -       |
| United Kingdom        | June              | 8,798      | 9,973   | 10,244  | 10,414  | 10,718  | 10,668  | 10,916  | -       |
| Yugoslavia            | Jan.              | 4,284      | 5,322   | 4,885   | 5,067   | 5,160   | 5,340   | 5,290   | 4,977   |
| Estimated Total       |                   | 102,500    | 95,900  | 102,200 | 103,700 | 105,400 | 106,300 | 107,100 | 108,200 |
| Western Europe        |                   |            |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Other Europe          |                   | 76,400     | 74,400  | 78,200  | 79,300  | 80,900  | 81,500  | 82,100  | 83,300  |
| U.S.S.R.              |                   |            |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| U.S.S.R.              | Jan. 1            | 26,100     | 21,500  | 24,000  | 24,400  | 24,500  | 24,800  | 25,000  | 24,900  |
| ASIA                  |                   |            |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Iran                  | Mar.              | 2,797      | 2,700   | 4,000   | 5,000   | 5,000   | 5,000   | -       | -       |
| Syria                 | Dec. 31           | -          | 510     | 483     | 448     | 447     | 481     | 474     | -       |
| Turkey                | Dec. 3            | 8,611      | 10,826  | 11,353  | 11,708  | 11,803  | 11,939  | 12,075  | -       |
| British Malaya        | Jan. 1            | 531        | 506     | 527     | 530     | 526     | 526     | -       | -       |
| Burma                 | Dec. 31           | 6,165      | 5,030   | 5,358   | 5,769   | 6,045   | 6,270   | -       | -       |
| Ceylon                | May               | 1,625      | 1,732   | 1,816   | 1,884   | 1,984   | 2,228   | -       | -       |
| China                 | Jan. 1            | 37,100     | 33,100  | 37,300  | 40,700  | -       | -       | -       | -       |
| India                 | Jan. 1            | 180,000    | 178,200 | 199,271 | 205,300 | 207,800 | 209,000 | -       | -       |
| Indonesia             | Dec. 31           | 7,669      | 6,330   | 7,318   | 7,491   | 7,949   | -       | -       | -       |
| Japan                 | Feb. 1            | 1,798      | 2,167   | 2,670   | 2,826   | 2,897   | 3,057   | 3,216   | 3,480   |
| Korea - South         | Dec. 31           | 922        | 646     | 573     | 661     | 688     | 763     | 867     | -       |
| Pakistan              | Jan. 1            | 33,000     | 30,000  | 29,049  | 29,100  | 29,896  | 30,000  | -       | -       |
| Philippine Islands    | Jan. 1            | 4,148      | 2,340   | 3,178   | 3,272   | 3,546   | 3,939   | 4,262   | -       |
| Taiwan (Formosa)      | Dec. 31           | 4,148      | 3,307   | 375     | 383     | 406     | 406     | 410     | -       |
| Thailand              | Mar. 31           | 11,283     | 10,006  | 10,987  | 11,007  | 10,979  | 11,040  | 11,050  | -       |
| Estimated Total       |                   | 308,200    | 294,800 | 323,700 | 335,000 | 339,700 | 344,100 | 347,600 | 350,300 |

# SOUTH AMERICA

|                 |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Argentina       | July    | 33,762  | 14,150  | 39,000  | 40,900  | 44,000  | 44,000  | 115,400 |
| Bolivia         | Dec. 31 | 1,842   | 1,493   | 1,850   | 55,854  | 2,260   | 61,422  | 64,000  |
| Brazil          | June    | 40,807  | 46,200  | 53,518  | 2,300   | 57,626  | 2,550   | 2,560   |
| Chile           | June    | 2,489   | 2,345   | 2,293   | 10,500  | 1,216   | 11,500  | 12,100  |
| Colombia        | Dec. 31 | 8,010   | 11,500  | 12,200  | 1,200   | 4,132   | 4,336   | -       |
| Ecuador         | Dec. 31 | 1,300   | 1,520   | 3,857   | 3,531   | 3,189   | 3,439   | 3,100   |
| Paraguay        | May     | 3,259   | 3,890   | 3,531   | 8,013   | 7,819   | 7,250   | 7,305   |
| Peru            | May     | 8,297   | 7,875   | 8,000   | 6,500   | 6,000   | 6,100   | 6,200   |
| Uruguay         | May     | -       | -       | 5,674   | 1/      | 1/      | 1/      | -       |
| Venezuela       | May     | -       | -       | 5,674   | 1/      | 1/      | 1/      | -       |
| Estimated Total |         | 105,500 | 123,800 | 131,300 | 135,000 | 140,000 | 144,200 | 148,800 |

# AFRICA

|                                    |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Algeria                            | April   | 844    | 759    | 846    | 864    | 892    | 893    | 112     |
| Angola                             | Dec. 31 | 2,306  | 1,281  | 1,400  | 1,221  | 1,157  | 1,184  | 1,245   |
| Belgian Congo, incl. Ruandi Urundi | Dec. 31 | 1,237  | 1,572  | 1,697  | 1,659  | 1,743  | 1,803  | -       |
| British East Africa:               |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |
| Kenya                              | Dec. 1  | 5,239  | 5,150  | 6,621  | 6,646  | 6,672  | 6,700  | 7,100   |
| Tanganyika                         | Dec. 31 | 5,000  | 6,324  | 6,300  | 6,470  | 6,633  | 6,488  | 6,764   |
| Uganda                             | Mar. 31 | 2,466  | 2,464  | 2,714  | 2,745  | 2,842  | 2,750  | 2,855   |
| British Southern Africa:           |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |
| Basutoland                         | Feb.    | 437    | 430    | 401    | 406    | -      | 408    | -       |
| Bechuanaland                       | Dec. 31 | 753    | 948    | 1,054  | 1,088  | 1,140  | -      | -       |
| Swaziland                          | Dec. 31 | 407    | 436    | 409    | 424    | 421    | -      | -       |
| Egypt                              | July 1  | 2,076  | 2,810  | 3,021  | 2,888  | 2,765  | -      | -       |
| Ethiopia & Eritrea                 | July    | -      | 13,460 | 20,200 | 20,200 | 20,000 | -      | -       |
| Madagascar                         | Dec. 31 | 5,172  | 5,700  | 5,892  | 5,898  | 5,910  | 6,100  | -       |
| Morocco                            | Dec. 31 | 2,229  | 1,907  | 2,342  | 2,468  | 2,803  | 2,816  | -       |
| Mozambique                         | Dec. 31 | 548    | 632    | 768    | 797    | -      | -      | 835     |
| Rhodesias & Nyasaland              | Dec. 31 | 3,187  | 3,912  | 4,166  | 4,192  | 4,274  | 4,355  | 4,450   |
| Sudan                              | Dec. 31 | 2,700  | 3,350  | 4,785  | -      | -      | -      | 3,800   |
| Tunisia                            | Dec. 31 | 494    | 394    | 475    | 401    | 483    | 482    | 501     |
| Union of South Africa              | Aug.    | 11,636 | 12,285 | 11,768 | 11,655 | 11,604 | -      | -       |
| Estimated Total                    |         | 64,600 | 86,800 | 94,400 | 96,700 | 97,200 | 97,700 | 102,000 |

# OCEANIA

|                       |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Australia             | Mar. 31 | 13,285  | 13,971  | 14,893  | 15,247  | 15,571  | 15,836  | 16,457  |
| New Zealand           | Jan. 31 | 4,449   | 4,273   | 5,165   | 5,446   | 5,745   | 5,887   | 5,600   |
| Estimated Total       |         | 18,100  | 19,100  | 20,500  | 21,100  | 21,700  | 22,100  | 22,500  |
| Estimated World Total |         | 755,400 | 783,900 | 853,700 | 877,800 | 899,100 | 912,400 | 928,000 |

1/End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1951 estimate of 7,936,000 is shown under 1952. 2/Preliminary. 3/Average for 2 to 4 years only. 4/July. 5/March. 6/May. 7/June. 8/Census or estimate for single year. 9/Official statistics; may be under estimates of actual numbers. 10/September. 11/Includes buffaloes. 12/Census December 31, 1934. 13/One year and older. 14/October. 15/1952 data National estimate of China mainland. Excludes outer Mongolia. 16/Includes estimates for Outer Mongolia. 17/Number taxed only.

Compiled from official sources, reports of agricultural attaches and other U.S. representatives abroad. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable. Foreign Agricultural Service. April 1957.



Cattle production in South America is expanding, but much of the increase in recent years has occurred in newly developed areas of such countries as Brazil, Bolivia, and Colombia, rather than in established areas of countries like Paraguay and Uruguay. Low beef prices are discouraging production in Paraguay. Livestock producers have also been hard hit in the last 2 years by a serious drought throughout central South America. In Uruguay competition from profitable sheep and wheat production has led many producers to make a switch from cattle raising. Producers have also been discouraged by reduced demands for beef as a result of labor unrest in the large export packing plants. Peru is another South American country hard hit by drought, and cattle herds there have been seriously depleted.

Brazil has the largest number of cattle in South America, but productivity per animal is low. Although cattle numbers are rising faster than the population, transportation difficulties, lack of adequate cold storage facilities, and low production have actually brought about a drop in per capita meat consumption. Venezuelan numbers have risen, but cattle production is hampered by the acute problem of disease. In Argentina, the most important exporter of meat in the world, cattle numbers reached an unprecedented high in mid-1956, according to a new census. Increased exports, along with lower prices resulting from elimination of subsidies, are expected to cause a reduction in cattle numbers through 1957.

Cattle numbers in Africa have risen more rapidly than in any other area in the world. Improved husbandry and marketing practices have made the livestock enterprise more profitable in recent years. Africa is not an important exporter of beef, and most of its greatly increased production has been absorbed at home. Beef consumption by the native African population is still very low, but a slight rise in purchasing power is reflected in a growing demand for meat. In many of the industrial areas, such as the copper mines of Northern Rhodesia, money wages paid to native labor are supplemented by rations of meat.

To accommodate this growing domestic demand, and to provide a source of essential foreign exchange, many African countries are developing a meat packing industry. This may further encourage cattle production. Slaughter plants are being built in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Angolia, the Rhodesias, Bechuanaland, and Southwest Africa. Exports previously have been limited to hides. Apparently, numbers in the Union of South Africa have not changed much. However, decontrol of beef prices in early 1956 has tended to stimulate production.

Cattle numbers in Australia have reached a new high. Producer prices have not been as high as desired, and consequently many cattle raisers have kept back cattle from market in order to build up their herds and take advantage of unusually good range conditions. Although numbers are expected to rise during 1957, the rate of increase will probably slacken. Relatively low returns from dairy farming have brought about a moderate decline in New Zealand cattle numbers in the past 2 years.





